(b) if so, whether Government feel the need to make the civil society in India aware of latest development in climate changes and make its concern known world-wide?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The Mount Everest falls in the territory of Nepal and is a sovereign part of that country. The snow-cover and glacier studies of the Mount Everest are, therefore, the concern of the Government of Nepal.

(b) However, a number of important events have been organised in the counry like Eighth Conference of Parties (COP-8) to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate change in October-November 2002; Climate Technology Bazaar in November 2003 and 22nd Plenary Session of Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change in November, 2004, which have been helpful in making the civil society in India aware of latest developments in climate change. These events were duly covered by the Media.

National Environment Policy

925. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to finalize National Environment Policy during current year;

(b) if so, whether the new policy will do away with mandatory Central clearance for industrial investment proposals worth over Rs. 50 crores;

(c) whether over 40 activists have come together to protest Government's poor record in protecting wildlife from destructive development and commercial pressures;

(d) if so, whether they have demanded that people should have a greater say in decisions and critical wildlife and bio-diversity habitats be closed to large scale development projects; and

(e) if so, to what extent the new environmental policy will take care of all these suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Government intends to finalize the National Environment Policy (NEP) by the end of the current financial year.

(b) In the draft policy, there is no specific mention of doing away with mandatory Central clearance for industrial investment proposals worth over Rs. 50 crores.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir.

(e) All the responses and suggestions received on the draft NEP will be taken into consideration before the policy is finalized.

Rehabilitation of displaced families from Kudremukh National Park

926. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Karnataka Government have sought Central grant for rehabilitation of the families displaced due to the formation of Kudremukh National Park; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir. This Ministry has not received any proposal for Central grant for rehabilitation of the families from Kudremukh during the current financial year.

(b) Does not arise.

Setting up of a milk powder plant in Chhattisgarh

†927. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have received a proposal from Chhattisgarh Government for setting up a milk powder plant;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.